

Hobbs, NM - Today, Congressman Harry Teague announced that the To'hajiilee Band of Navajos (formerly the Canoncito Band of Navajos) will receive \$204,034 for diabetes education and prevention programs. The grant is part of the Indian Health Service's Special Diabetes Program, which focuses on combating high-rates of diabetes among American Indians across the country.

"It is important that we encourage preventative health programs among our local tribes as we continue to fight the diabetes epidemic. The IHS Special Diabetes Program is critically important and this grant will go a long way toward supporting the health needs of the To'hajiilee community," said Harry Teague, whose district includes the Navajo Nation Chapters of To'hajiilee, Alamo, Ramah, as well as the Pueblos of Acoma, Isleta, Laguna, and Zuni and the Mescalero Apache Tribe.

The Special Diabetes Program in To'Hajiilee emphasizes cardiovascular disease prevention in those previously diagnosed with diabetes. Cardiovascular disease is currently the number one cause of death among American Indian adults.

Congress established the Special Diabetes Program for Indians (SDPI) in 1997. The Special Diabetes Program for Indians is currently a \$150 million per year grant program that provides funding for diabetes treatment and prevention services at 399 IHS, Tribal, and Urban Indian health programs in all 12 IHS Areas across the United States.

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